

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUANDA 01136 131922Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05

OC-05 CCO-00 /073 W

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O R 131721Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3981

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUANDA 1136

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI AO

SUBJECT: ROUNDUP, AUGUST 13

1. HEAVY FIGHTING BROKE OUT AT 0500 AUGUST 13 IN LOBITO. COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE CITY ARE POOR, BUT ALL REPORTS INDICATE THE FIGHTING IS INTENSE AND THAT IT HAS SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE CITY. K ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION, UNITA AND FNLA MOST PROBABLY ARE FIGHTING TOGETHER AGAINST MPLA. THE COMBATENTS ARE EMPLOYING MORTARS AND RECOILLESS RIFLES. AT 1600 AUGUST 13 THE PORTUGUESE ARMY GARRISON LOCATED ON THE UPPER LEVEL OF LOBITO REPORTED THERE WAS NO WATER, ELECTRICITY OR TELEPHONE. ABOUT 1,000 PERSONS HAVE TAKEN REFUGE IN THE GARRISON, INCLUDING SOME MPLA SOLDIERS.

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PAGE 02 LUANDA 01136 131922Z

2. A PORTUGUESE ARMY OFFICER RETURNED BY ROAD FROM NOVA LISBOA

ON AUGUST 12 WITH TWO TRUCKS CONTAINING MEAT AND PRODUCE. UNITA TROOPS NEAR CELA ALLOWED THE VEHICLES TO PASS ONLY AFTER ALL FOODSTUFFS WERE OFFLOADED.

3. A JOURNALIST JUST RETURNED FROM CARMONA SAID HE SAW SIX PLANES COME IN WITH ARMS AND, HE SAID, ARMORED CARS. HE ALSO SAW ONE TANK ON THE GROUND. ANOTHER JOURNALIST REPORTED SEEING SELF PROPELLED GUNS. THE MARKINGS ON THE PLANES HAD BEEN RATHER HASTILY PAINTED CZR AND THE ZAIRIAN MARKINGS SHOWED THROUGH.

4. COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN LUANDA AND THE REST OF ANGOLA HAVE BEEN VERY BAD THE PAST FEW DAYS; IN SOME CASES LINES HAVE BEEN CUT AND IN OTHERS FAULTY EQUIPMENT IS TO BLAME.

5. A BUSINESSMAN RETURNING FROM MALANJE TOLD ME THAT THE STORIES ABOUT DOZENS OR HUNDREDS OF WHITES SLAUGHTERED BY THE MPLA ARE JUST NOT TRUE. AS FAR AS HE WAS ABLE TO FIND OUT, FIVE WHITES WERE KILLED IN THE FIGHTING.

6. MINISTER OF ECONOMY VASCO VIEIRA DE ALMEIDA LEFT FOR CONSULTATIONS IN LISBON ON AUGUST 12. HE TOLD THE PRESS ON HIS DEPARTURE THAT ANGOLA WAS ON THE BRINK OF ECONOMIC COLLAPSE; THAT IN MANY SECTORS PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION HAS DISINTEGRATED COMPLETELY; COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ARE PARALYZED; THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS GOING UP VERTICALLY; AND MANY AREAS OF THE ECONOMY ARE DISORGANIZED. BECAUSE OF PORTUGAL'S LARGE COMMERCIAL INTEREST IN ANGOLA AND ITS TRADE WITH THE FORMER COLONY, HE SAID, AN ECONOMIC COLLAPSE HERE WOULD HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE METROPOLIS.  
KILLORAN

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